(b) whether the Union Government are planning to implement the cheap and useful lift irrigation scheme there;

(c) If so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the amount earmarked for this project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Irrigation and flood control being a state subject, the responsibility of investigation, planning, formulation, execution, funding and implementation etc. of irrigation projects/schemes of all types rests primarily with the State Government. Major and medium schemes need clearance while Minor irrigation schemes do not require even clearance by the Union Government.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Constitution of 'Gramin Shikshak Samittees'

2443. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the main objectives of constitution of 'Gramin Shikshak Samittees' (Committees of rural teachers) in the States; and

(b) The other new measures proposed to be taken for the spread of education in rural areas during the year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). Central Government is not aware of constitution of Committees of rural teachers in States. However, under the 73rd Constitution Amendment primary education is one of the subjects which can devolve on Panchayat Raj bodies. The Village Education Committee is envisaged as the main instrument for facilitating decentralised planning and management of education at the village level.

[English]

Security Council Seat

2444. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of senior officers in his Ministry, who had undertaken foreign tours in recent months to canvass for non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council;

(b) the details of the countries visited by them and the dignitaries they have met; and

(c) the salient features of the reports submitted by these officers?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Visits to 137 countries (statement enclosed) were undertaken by Envoys of EAM from January 1996 to October 1996 to canvass support for India's candidature to the non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Important Summit level meetings were particularly targeted in Africa, Americas and the Caribbean and our case was projected among participating Member States at high levels.

Twenty one distinguished retired Foreign Service officers and Secretary level officers and Divisional Heads within the Ministry were deputed for these visits. A ministerial level representative was sent to the OAU Summit. As EAM's Special Envoys the delegates usually called on Foreign Ministers of those countries, apart from senior officials. The reports of the envoys were found useful in making an assessment of the position.

STATEMENT

List of Countries Visited by EAM's Special Envoys

Afghanistan
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua & Barbuda
Argentian
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bolivia
Botswana
Brunei
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republi
Chile
Colombia

Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
France
Finland
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Guyana
Honduras
Indonesia
Iran
Ireland
Italy
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritiania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia
Moldova
Monaco
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Panama
Peru
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Rwanda
Samoa
San Marino
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
St. Kitts & Nevis
St. Lucia
St. Vincent and
Grenadines
Swaziland
Syria
Tajikistan
Tanzania

Thailand
Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine
UK
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

[Translation]

Repair of N.H. 31

2445. SHRI SATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a part of the road of the National Highway No. 31 between Lakh minia railway station and Sahebpur Kamal railway station had sunk, due to which frequent accidents are taking place and the Director General of the Ministry had himself visited the site; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said part of the National Highway is proposed to be repaired and constructed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). An estimate amounting to Rs. 19.66 lakhs, for special repairs for damages caused to the pavement in Km. 250 to Km. 253, on NH-31 between lakhminia and Sahebpur Kamal railway stations, has since been approved. The approved work has been planned on priority for completion during the current year. In the meantime, the road is being maintained in traffic worthy condition within available resources.

National Highways in Gujarat

2446. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any projects have been submitted by the Gujarat Government for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the State during the last three years and till November, 1996.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard and the funds allotted for the same, if any?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). Out of 186 proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat during the last three years, 90 road/bridge projects costing about Rs. 9962.08 lakhs have been sanctioned. The remaining works could not be sanctioned mainly due to financial stringency under the Central Sector Roads programme. The funds allocated for the development and maintenance/repairs of National Highways is as under :

Year	Development of N.Hs	Maintenance/ Repairs
		Rs. in lakhs
1994-95	7098.00	1316.64
1995-96	5458.00	1745.20
1996-97 (upto November, 1996)	3605.51	1611.50

[English]

Treatment of Cancer Patients

2447. DR. KRUPA SINDHU BHOI :
SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand treatment facilities for the cancer patients;

(b) if so, the number of hospitals proposed to be established specifically for the treatment of cancer patients during the remaining period of Eighth Plan and during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether such hospitals are proposed to be opened in the different regions of the country where such hospitals have not been set up so far;

(d) if so, the details of the proposals mooted by the Government in this regard;

(e) the encouragement extended to the private institutions for the treatment of cancer; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d). Under the National Cancer Control Programme, various schemes already exist for health education, early detection, pain relief and augmentation of treatment facilities for cancer patients